GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3355
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2001
CLOSING DOWN OF MINES AND LEAD SMELTER
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the The Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) has started the process of closing down three mines and lead smelter;

(b) if so, the location of the mines to be closed down;

(c) the number of employees who are likely to be retrenched;

(d) whether the possibilities for keeping the mine operational has been examined; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL)

(a) to (e) Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) had identified Sargipalli Lead Mine (Orissa), Agnigundala Lead Mine (Andhra Pradesh), Maton Rock Phosphate Mine (Rajasthan) and Vizag Lead Smelter (Andhra Pradesh) as economically unviable units based on the operational results and after conducting detailed studies. Vizag Lead Smelter, whose operations were initially suspended on 1.8.1999 due to pollution problem and economically unviable operations now stands closed from 24.1.2001 under Section 25 (O) of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. All the employees of Vizag Lead Smelter accepted Special Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). At Sargipalli Lead Mine (Orissa) as the operations were highly uneconomical and reserves had almost exhausted a Special Voluntary Retirement Scheme was introduced. All the 463 employees have opted for VRS and 462 employees have already been released with effect from 13.7.2001 and their dues have also been paid. Hence, at this juncture Company does not envisage any retrenchment in these units.